

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----005109 140547Z /20

O 140456Z APR 78

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0695

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 USUN NEW YORK 01430

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORC, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF, IR

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON: FURTHER UNIFIL DEVELOPMENTS

1. SUMMARY: UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL URQUHART CONFIRMED TO LEONARD APRIL 13 IRANIAN OFFER OF FULL BATTALION ON CONDITION THAT ISRAEL ISSUE PUBLIC STATEMENT ON WITHDRAWAL BY APRIL 30. URQUHART THOUGHT THIS WOULD HELP WALDHEIM WITH PM BEGIN. REGARDING UNIFIL TROOP STRENGTH, URQUHART SUGGESTED SC CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE IN ORDER AFTER NEPALESE AND SENGALESE CONTINGENTS ARRIVED, WHEN TOTAL FORCE WOULD REACH 4,000. LEONARD TOLD OF REPORTED ARAB GROUP CONFIDENCE IN
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U.S. AS LONG AS IDF CONTINUES TO WITHDRAW. LEONARD ALSO CONVEYED LEBANESE AMBASSADOR'S CONCERN OVER RECENT OUTBREAK OF FIGHTING IN BEIRUT; HE SUGGESTED THAT IF SYG SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE FOR UNIFIL APPEARED IN BEIRUT SOON IT MIGHT ALSO ASSIST ON BROADER POLITICAL QUESTIONS SUCH AS THOSE UNDERLYING BEIRUT DISORDERS. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION LATE ON APRIL 13, URQUHART CONFIRMED THAT SHAH APPROVED IRANIAN CONTINGENT FOR UNIFIL ON UNDERSTANDING THAT ISRAEL WOULD MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT THERE WOULD BE FULL WITHDRAWAL BY APRIL 30. URQUHART'S REPORT NOTED THAT IRAN WAS PREPARED TO PROVIDE CONTINGENT IF THERE WERE ASSURANCES FROM ISRAEL ON WITHDRAWAL BY END OF APRIL. URQUHART WAS HEARTENED THAT THESE ASSURANCES SHOULD TAKE FORM OF A PUBLIC STATEMENT. HE REGARDED THE SHAH'S DEMAND AS AN IMPORTANT POINT FOR WALDHEIM TO MAKE WITH PM BEGIN -- THAT UNIFIL BUILD-UP CAN'T TAKE PLACE WITHOUT ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON.

3. TURNING TO SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION REQUIRED WHEN INCREASE IN UNIFIL TROOP STRENGTH IS REQUIRED BEYOND 4,000 URQUHART NOTED THAT THE LIMIT WOULD BE REACHED WITH THE ARRIVAL OF THE SENEGALESE AND NEPALESE BATTALIONS (WITH TOTALS OF APPROXIMATELY 3,000 COMBAT TROOPS AND 1,000 IN LOGISTICS). HE CALCULATED THAT WITH THE ADDITION OF NIGERIANS AND IRANIANS (1,200) PLUS IRISH (400) AND FIJIAN (200) THE TOTAL STRENGTH WOULD LEVEL OFF AT ABOUT 6,000. (URQUHART INDICATED LATTER TWO OFFERS NOW IN HAND.) THIS RECKONING TAKES ACCOUNT OF THE RETURN TO UNEF/UNDOF
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OF THE LOANED IRANIAN AND SWEDISH COMPANIES.

4. RELATING THE UNIFIL BUILD-UP TO ARAB ATTITUDES. LEONARD REMARKED THAT FOLLOWING SC CONSULTATIONS ON APRIL 12 THE ARAB GROUP MET AND AGREED THAT AS LONG AS THE U.S. IS ASSISTING IN EFFECTING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM SOUTH LEBANON, THE ARAB GROUP WILL STICK WITH THE U.S. ARAB GROUP CHAIRMAN WAS DELEGATED TO APPROACH LEONARD (HE HAS NOT DONE SO AS YET) TO CONVEY THIS ARAB CONFIDENCE IN U.S.; THEY BELIEVE U.S. IS WORKING WITH THEM AND THEY WANT TO WORK WITH US. (NOTE: ARAB GROUP APPARENTLY TOOK UMBRAGE AT PLO'S PUTTING SOVIET AMB. UP TO QUESTIONING URQUHART AT APRIL 12 SC CONSULTATIONS ON "TANKS" BEING USED BY UNIFIL. ARAB GROUP "ALIGNMENT" WITH U.S. WAS SEEN BY LEBANESE AMB. TUENI (WHO CONVEYED ALL OF ABOVE TO LEONARD) AS A SETBACK FOR THE PLO.

5. MOVING ON TO WALDHEIM'S TRIP TO THE AREA, URQUHART COMMENTED SYRIANS HAVE NOT REPLIED TO

WALDHEIM'S INVITATION TO FM KHADDAM TO MEET WITH SYG
IN BEIRUT. INDICATIONS ARE THAT SYRIANS WOULD PREFER
THAT WALDHEIM TRAVEL TO DAMASCUS, BUT TIGHT
SCHEDULE WOULD NOT PERMIT IT. LEONARD COMMENTED THAT
WE COULD SEE ADVANTAGE IN WALDHEIM/KHADDAM MEETING
AS VISIBLE SYRIAN ACCEPTANCE OF
RESPONSIBILITY FOR HELPING TO RESTORE ORDER IN
LEBANON. URQUHART WONDERED WHETHER WALDHEIM'S
ACTUALLY GOING TO DAMASCUS WOULDN'T TAKE HIM TOO FAR
AFIELD FROM HIS MANDATE UNDER RES. 425.

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7. TURNING TO SITUATION IN BEIRUT, LEONARD REPORTED
THAT AMB. TUENI WAS QUITE UPSET. URQUHART WONDERED
WHAT UN COULD DO TO HELP. LEONARD NOTED
WALDHEIM'S PRESENCE IN BEIRUT WOULD BE BENEFICIAL IN
ITSELF; AT SAME TIME WALDHEIM COULD MAKE CLEAR TO
LEBANESE (MARONITES IN PARTICULAR) THAT UN TROOPS
WERE NOT GOING TO TAKE OVER AND RELIEVE LEBANESE OF
RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. LEONARD
ADDED THAT AN ANNOUNCEMENT DURING SYG'S TRIP OF
PLAN TO APPOINT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE WHO WOULD RESIDE

IN BEIRUT WOULD BE HELPFUL. SPECIAL REP WOULD
BE ABLE WITH PROPER FINESSE TO PLAY A FAIRLY
BROAD USEFUL POLITICAL ROLE
SOMEWHAT BEYOND BUT NOT UNRELATED TO BUILDING LEBANESE
SUPPORT FOR UNIFIL AND RESTORATION OF NATIONAL
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AUTHORITY IN THE SOUTH. LEONARD

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